

**SUPERINTENDENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2003
8:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.
STATE BOARD ROOM**

Attending:

John Paul Amis, David Baird, David Boggs, Dr. Bill Brown, Dale Brown, Stephen Butcher, Grover Canty, Monte Chance, Anna Craft, Dr. Stephen Daeschner, Linda France, Kay Freeland, Larry Harrison, Blake Haselton, Dr. Roland Haun, Dr. Ken James, Byron Jeffries, Bruce Johnson, Marshall H. Kemp, Steve Knight, Jan Lantz, Tim McGinnis, Ed McNeel, Earl Melloy, Lonnie Morris, Kevin Noland, Wayne Puckett, John Rosati, Dr. Bob Rowland, Gary Rye, Dr. H. M. Snodgrass, James Lee Stevens, Teresa Wallace, Frank Welch, and Commissioner Gene Wilhoit

Sharing Local Activities

- Hats off to David Mangum in the Division of School Finance for assisting with getting the cracked frames on the 1993 and 1995 buses fixed at no cost. Ron Brown, Director of School Finance, will check on the possibility of accelerating the depreciation schedule on the Carpenter bus bodies that have cracked frames.
- Federal Head Start regulations are driving the seat belt issues for youngsters.
- Commissioner Wilhoit advised superintendents to contact Senator Mitch McConnell and congressional delegates regarding the negative impact being experienced by Kentucky teacher retirees in social security benefits.
- A group is looking at the issue of the special education specialty exams. The group will determine if the test is based on previous regulations or current regulations.
- Problems with the STI continue. The Help Desk continues to be the main problem. Commissioner Wilhoit indicated that the general principle/criteria used by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to determine if we request data is if the data is required by statute, regulation, or for federal reporting requirements. The best practice category is at the discretion of the district. The only driver would be information needed for a specific calculation for funding or for carrying out a legislative or federal requirement.
- It was suggested that the KECSAC, the KDE, and the DJJ come to a consensus on what is expected of local districts operating day-treatment programs. Districts need guidance on accounting for these students for attendance. Commissioner Wilhoit has scheduled meetings with DJJ to resolve several issues before regulations are drafted.

Congressional and Accountability Issues

- H. M. Snodgrass feels that Kentucky has not met the mandate or intent of the legislation for the accountability, since a legitimate longitudinal accountability system has not been developed. New federal regulations and the student identifier will help push the responsibility to the districts that own the schools. It was suggested that other categories other than parents and guardian be added to STI. Superintendent Snodgrass will send suggestions for other categories to Deputy Commissioner Linda France.
- Commissioner Wilhoit and Linda France encouraged superintendents to forward them their suggestions on how writing can be improved and other things that can be done to support best practices in the classroom. The Haggard Group study of the accountability testing system pointed to inconsistency of writing compared to other subject areas. There appears to more division among teachers about the writing program than any other area of the assessment system. Concern was raised with students rewriting their portfolio pieces over and over. The on-demand writing scores are higher than the portfolio scores. Commissioner Wilhoit is addressing the writing issue in an upcoming issue of Kentucky Teacher. A consistent message is needed at the district level. The American Diploma Project has just released some draft benchmarks in English and Mathematics and these will be compared to Kentucky's benchmarks to determine what adjustments are needed. It was suggested that the KDE tie writing to workplace and future economic needs.

Setting a Statewide Agenda for 2004-05 (Commissioner Gene Wilhoit)

- The KDE will be asking the legislature for additional resources. Adequacy studies are on the table that indicate the major gaps. Commissioner Wilhoit has been meeting with civic and business groups across Kentucky to

get a sense of what they see as Kentucky's needs. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) has asked the KDE to put together a budget focused on priorities for the October KBE meeting. The SAC was given a handout reflecting priorities. Commissioner Wilhoit will provide all superintendents or just Superintendent Haselton with the financial summary document passed out at the meeting to be distributed with the Council for Better Education's mailing to all superintendents. After the KBE meets in October, Commissioner Wilhoit will provide the SAC with the anticipated costs associated with the priorities.

- Superintendent Blake Haselton provided an update on the adequacy litigation. He met with several key legislators and concluded without consensus or commitment. He plans to meet with the gubernatorial candidates too. The SAC was provided with Talking Points and Prephrased Responses in anticipation of questions asked in response to The Council for Better Education's Complaint filing, and Mr. Haselton will also forward superintendents a Power Point presentation to use with their local board members and others. Superintendents were asked to review the Talking Points and provide feedback and suggestions to Superintendent Haselton by Monday, September 8. Districts will be asked to support these efforts. One hundred and sixty four districts are members of The Council for Better Education. Dr. Roland Haun will share identified strategies and will identify positive legislators and their addresses for superintendents. Superintendents would like to send notes to these legislators.

Kentucky's Update on the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – (Kevin Noland)

- The SAC was provided a summary of the KBE's decisions on the NCLB Act issues from the August 7, 2003 meeting. One important message Kevin Noland emphasized is that the CATS test will gradually add math and reading for grades 3-8, but there will only be one test which is the CATS test. The accountability system will blend in the federal requirements. On October 1, superintendents and DAC's will receive KPR CATS data electronically which is embargoed until October 2. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data will be embargoed until October 14. The KDE wants to carefully ensure that the press and the public are in tune and understand that schools not making AYP are not failing schools. Commissioner Wilhoit called for direct conversations with the major market school districts - combined meetings with the press and the Fayette, Jefferson, and possibly the Bowling Green markets. He further asked superintendents to begin to talk with congressional representatives and point out problems that superintendents are having at the local level.
- Concern was expressed with the low number of subpopulations for Kentucky. The KBE might revisit the minimum number on the participation rate. There is an amendment being considered by Congress that if a school has an AYP showing they are down with their students with disabilities, they can ask for reconsideration. If the student has addressed the goals within the AYP, then that would be a waiver or alternative and the school could still reach their goal. Commissioner Wilhoit will inform superintendents on how the day-treatment and juvenile justice students' data will be handled.
- Four major problems of the NCLB Act are: It narrows the curriculum to math and reading, and Kentucky values 7 content areas; it requires all schools to have the same baseline; annual accountability instead of biennial is needed (two years of data is better than one year of data); and allowance of recognition for continuous recognition with children is needed. Superintendent Dale Brown had a conversation with U.S. Representative Ron Lewis, and he has asked what the congressional delegation can do to help. Kevin Noland will be outlining the major concerns and suggest an amendment that would give the U.S. Education Secretary greater flexibility to determine if a state's assessment and accountability system in compliance with the NCLB Act. Superintendent Brown will share electronically as well as hard copy a letter other superintendents and local school board members can use with their congressional delegation.

Improving and Enhancing CATS Assessment and Accountability: A White Paper Developed by the Superintendents' CEP Network - (Linda France)

- The KDE is looking at ways to improve Kentucky's assessment and accountability system while preserving the things that are working and correcting the things that aren't. A group of superintendents met and prepared a united message for legislators indicating the need for more state support for public education and funding to support high levels of student achievement. This document was passed out to the SAC. A Superintendents' CEO Network has been formed to work on a "white" paper to be used during the next legislative session. The "draft" white paper will be developed by October 1, and Linda France will send it out to the SAC for comments. The network consists of 19 superintendents, representatives from The Partnership for Kentucky's Schools, University of Kentucky staff, and KDE staff. Superintendents involved in this network will receive

professional growth opportunities equal to what a CEO in any business would receive, networking and other opportunities to explore issues that are important to them. If this network is successful, it will be put in place and superintendents will rotate in and out. The paper needs to clearly reflect that the system has been looked at to determine that it is being done in the most effective and efficient way to produce the best results. Concern was expressed that other superintendents' groups may be putting together a similar document. Dr. Haun indicated that there is a meeting scheduled September 10 with superintendents and educational cooperatives' representatives to develop the KASS legislative program to be mailed to the home of every legislator. Any document developed should reflect information that superintendents can support before the next legislative session so not to divide the group. Support is also needed from parents and teachers.

English Language Acquisition Assessment for Limited English Proficient Students - (Latricia Bronger)

- Latricia Bronger with the Office of Academic and Professional Development and Scott Trimble and Bill Insko with the Office of Assessment and Accountability sought input from the SAC on next steps in the dissemination of information around Title III for servicing Limited English Proficient Students. The SAC members were given a copy of the Kentucky English Language Proficiency Standards. Teachers were involved in the development of this document. On September 1, the consolidated state application was submitted. It included the Kentucky Education Proficiency Standards and the Target Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives. Linda France asked the superintendents to review the document and be prepared to discuss these standards at the next SAC meeting.
- Superintendents need to be informed at the beginning of the year what kind of reporting data needs to be collected rather than teachers trying to reconstruct data after the school year ends. Commissioner Wilhoit commented that this was a quick response to comply with the NCLB requirements. The federal government wants to measure progress towards English proficiency based upon the standards. The KBE approved using the LOSS and the ITT for assessment and accountability. The plan is to move to a single assessment. A schedule on how LEP students will have to progress in order to reach proficiency has been developed.

Area Achievement Gap Coordinators - (Michael Dailey)

- Michael Dailey, one of five area Achievement Gap School Improvement Coordinators (SIC) covering Kentucky, addressed the CEEC. Other coordinators stopped by: Gary Perkins, Central Kentucky South Central Area; Kay Brown, western Kentucky; Sue Davis, eastern Kentucky; and Ron Bryan, Associate Commissioner for Leadership and School Improvement. Dr. Louise Byrd has the northern Kentucky area. The coordinators were identified in response to the elimination of the regional services centers. The coordinators' primary role is to be brokers of services and to establish networks of educational partners to help support districts and schools. The coordinators will identify schools that aren't doing well in the systemic process and looking at how districts are supporting those individual schools and determine what support mechanisms are in place and sharing this information with other districts that are struggling in the same areas. The coordinators will address the needs of equitable resources, services, delivery, and support the needs of all children. The following Web site contains the map of achievement gap service areas:

http://www.kentuckyschools.net/cgi-bin/MsmGo.exe?grab_id=108502406&EXTRA_ARG=&host_id=1&page_id=2653&query=achievement+gap+coordinators&hiword=ACHIEVEMENT+GAP+COORDINATORS+

There is an achievement gap Web site. Go to the department's home page and select instructional resources. The 7th item down is closing the gap. This will be a Web resource that will give you access to practices, research, and questions and answers.

Reminder!

- The Kentucky Association of Year-Round Education will be holding their statewide conference at Bardstown September 21-22, 2003.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 2003